

British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT)

LEVEL II

Associate Principal Investigator (PI) Scheme Guidelines

PLEASE NOTE: BAHT Level II Points can be gained for candidates who have completed the Associate PI Scheme.



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This document replaces all previous versions.

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Introduction & Rationale

The BAHT level II post graduate development process is designed for qualified Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists with proven knowledge in the field of hand therapy. The learning outcome of the BAHT Level II PI Associate Award & submitted for 2 BAHT Level II accreditation points must be relevant to the Post-qualification Hand Therapy Education Programme of the British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT). Level II promotes recognition of professional competence in a specialist aspect of hand therapy to improve the quality of patient care.

It is anticipated that therapists with two or more years of practice within the speciality of hand therapy will consider applying for Level II while pursuing the goal of Accredited Hand Therapist (AHT).

British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT)

Accredited Hand Therapist (AHT) Route

To achieve the award, of Accredited Hand Therapist (AHT) clinicians need to have obtained 12 BAHT points. There are a range of different routes at BAHT Level I, Level II & Level III which clinicians can undertake to achieve the 12 BAHT points required for AHT – see table 1 below.

Please also refer to the British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) website, educational section.

Post-qualification Hand Therapy Education Programme

LEVEL I

The Level I Course is designed for therapists with minimal or no experience of hand injuries & conditions & for therapists who wish to refresh their basic knowledge of, & skills in, the field of hand therapy. It will promote recognition for professional competence & will improve the quality of patient care (BAHT Guidelines Level I Course). For therapists with more than 2 years' experience of hand therapy practice please refer to the Level I APL process (see BAHT level I guidelines).

One Point is awarded for successful completion of the Level I process.

LEVEL II

The Level II Course/Process is designed for therapists with proven experience in the field of hand therapy who have successfully completed an accredited Level I Course or APL route (therapists who have at least 2 years' experience in hand therapy). Level II courses promote recognition for professional knowledge in a specialist aspect of hand therapy; improve the quality of hand care; & foster evaluation & research in hand therapy (BAHT Guidelines Level II Course). BAHT strive to support therapists who wish to increase their experience & knowledge in specialist areas of hand therapy & there are a range of other routes, other than attending a BAHT Level II course, for the acquisition of BAHT Level II points. Routes for BAHT Level II points include: submission of evidence of prior learning (APL), educators points, non-accredited MSc Modules. For the full range of routes available to gain BAHT Level II points please refer to the BAHT website education section &/or table 1 below.

Two points are awarded per BAHT Level II course & for a range of other BAHT Level II Routes on successful completion (see table 1).

6 Level II points are required at BAHT Level II.

Each two points must be gained in a different specialist area of hand therapy.

LEVEL III

This level offers members of BAHT a challenging opportunity to demonstrate their advanced knowledge of hand therapy. Five BAHT points are awarded for successful completion of Level III. Level III points can be gained in a number of ways, see table 1 or refer to the BAHT Education Process on the BAHT website.

Five Points are awarded for successful completion of the Level III process.

The structure for education & training is set out in Table 1.

When candidates have achieved 12 points they can apply to the BAHT Education Sub-committee (ESC) for AHT (see Becoming an Accredited Hand Therapist on the BAHT website)

For ALL BAHT courses & routes see guidelines on the BAHT website - [The BAHT Education Process \(Route to AHT\)](#)

For ALL BAHT Level II Routes (other than BAHT Level II Courses) queries please email baht.apl@gmail.com

TABLE 1: Progression of Post-qualification Education in Hand Therapy (BAHT)

For all Level I, II & III options in below table please refer to the specific guidelines for more detail on criteria & application process

Target Population	Content	Assessment Process	Outcome	Sum of points
Level I				
OT/PT therapist ** see below	Introductory course APL Route	BAHT exam (short answer/MCQs) 2 years plus experience full time hand therapy	Certificate Value = 1 point Eligibility-Level II	1
Level II				
OP/PT Therapist Eligibility via Level I Or Indicative experience via APL process ** see below	Specialist BAHT course (17 hours contact teaching) APL (prior learning less than 3 years since completion) MSc Module (non-accredited) – completed less than 2 years prior to application Educational points route Associate PI Scheme	Two forms of assessment during/after the course, e.g., examination & written assignment Written work assessed by 2 independent reviewers Via University assessment process & application to BAHT ESC for recognition of a non-accredited module Evidence of teaching / education of others Evidence of completion	Certificate Value = 2 points per Level II course / APL topic / Level II Route Maximum 6 points. Eligibility-Level III	7
Level III				
OT/PT specialist Eligibility via Level II Or Indicative experience via APL process ** see below	In-depth BAHT project MSc Modules (accredited & non-accredited) – completed less than 2 years prior to application Hand Therapy Journal article APL (prior learning less than 3 years since completion)	Written paper assessed by 2 independent reviewers Via University assessment process only for accredited modules <i>or</i> additional application to BAHT ESC for recognition of a non-accredited module Proof of publication & ownership statement Written work assessed by 2 independent reviewers	Certificate Value = 5 points	12

**** Note:** therapy students, therapy assistants, nurses & other AHP clinicians may attend BAHT courses at the discretion of the course provider

Methods of gaining Level II BAHT Points

Associate PI Scheme

Therapists who can provide evidence of successful completion of a NIHR CRN Associate PI Scheme can apply for BAHT level II points.

If the Associate PI Scheme is specifically relevant to learning & development within Hand & Upper Limb Therapy practice it may be suitable for Level II accreditation. In these circumstances therapists can apply to have their module considered by the BAHT Education Sub-Committee (ESC) by completing an application form (also see Appendix 1) & as per criteria below.

Two Level II points will be issued to candidates meeting the criteria laid out within this document & each therapist's application will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Associate PI Schemes completed by a maximum of 2 years prior to the date of application can be considered, & all applications are subject to a £30 administration fee payable to BAHT. Please note registration fee payment must be made before the ESC can consider your application.

- Fees must be paid electronically by BACS transfer or over the phone by phoning the BAHT secretary. Cheques can no longer be accepted by BAHT.
 - **Eve Dunn** (Clerical and Admin Assistance, BAHT)
 - **WORKING HOURS:** Monday to Thursday 1-5.30pm, Friday 12-2pm
 - **Tel:** [01473 788 554](tel:01473788554)
 - **Email:** bahthandtherapy@gmail.com

BANK DETAILS: British Association of Hand Therapists

Account Number: 00050628

Sort Code: 30-16-74

See Appendix 1 for the application form. A word version of the application form is available on the BAHT website course section – The BAHT education process (route to AHT).

Criteria for gaining Level II Associate PI Scheme Points via this route:

- An Associate PI Scheme must be completed & the BAHT Level II Associate PI Scheme Application form completed
- Evidence of successful completion of the Associate PI Scheme must be submitted (e.g. copy of certificate – please do not send your original as documents cannot be returned).
 - The Associate PI Scheme must demonstrate that it is related to hand/upper limb therapy.
 - Date of completion must be within the two years prior to application for BAHT points.
- A 400-to-500-word reflection must be produced detailing how the Associate PI Scheme has enhanced learning & development as a hand/upper limb therapist & influenced practice.

Note: please do not exceed this limit, anything over 500 words will not be considered as part of the application.

- Successful payment of BAHT Level II application fee for the Associate PI Scheme

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